

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In House Resolution 368.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. House Resolution 368.

Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I want to make sure I have the right one. I have in my hand H. Res. 368, October 1.

“Resolved,” and section 2 of that says, “Any motion pursuant to clause 4 of rule XXII relating to House Joint Resolution 59 may be offered only by the majority leader or his designee.”

Is that what you are referring to, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. That is the resolution.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. So, Mr. Speaker, just so I understand the situation, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. H. Res. 368 changed the standing rules of the House to take away from any Member of the House the privilege of calling up the Senate bill to immediately reopen the government; is that right?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It did change the operation of the standing rule.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Right.

Parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. So a privileged motion, Mr. Speaker, would have allowed any Member of this House—Republican or Democrat—to call up the Senate bill to open the government; is that right?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair does not give advisory opinions.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. But, Mr. Speaker, a privileged resolution, as cited in rule XXII, clause 4, of the standing rules of the House would allow any Member of the House to offer that resolution; is that right?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will not give an advisory opinion.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Well, Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I think the Chair, just as I understood, said that that was changed so that it no longer would be a privileged motion for any Member, but it would be exclusively the right of the Republican leader or his designee. Am I right about that?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will apply House Resolution 368.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Just again, Mr. Speaker, I want to be absolutely clear that H. Res. 368 changed the standing rules of the House so that only the Republican leader or his designee could call up the bill to open the government.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I would ask my colleagues whether the majority leader or his designee is on the floor of the House today.

Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker, and this will be my last one.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I just want to understand, Mr. Speaker. The Rules Committee, under the rules of the House, changed the standing rules of the House to take away the right of any Member to move to vote to open the government and gave that right exclusively to the Republican leader; is that right?

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. The House adopted the resolution.

The Chair is now prepared to entertain 1-minutes.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I renew my motion that under the regular standing rules of the House, clause 4, rule XXII, the House take up the Senate amendments and open the government now.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under section 2 of House Resolution 368, that motion may be offered only by the majority leader or his designee.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, why are the rules rigged to keep the government shut down?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

U.N. ARMS TREATY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in October of 2009, the Obama administration reversed the policies of both President Clinton and President Bush by committing the United States to U.N. Arms Trade Treaty negotiations. Since then, Members of the House and Senate have voiced their strong opposition.

I joined 130 of my colleagues in sending a letter to the White House to express my concern about the dangers posed to Americans' Second Amendment rights. In the Senate, which must only approve the treaty by a two-thirds vote, a bipartisan coalition of Senators remains united in opposition to its ratification.

Despite overwhelming opposition from Congress and the American people, Secretary of State John Kerry signed the treaty—a decision that is sure to have far-reaching consequences for American foreign policy and American sovereignty.

I have joined my colleagues in the House in sending another letter to the administration voicing our continued opposition to this misguided and dangerous policy.

I encourage my colleagues in the Senate to stand strong in their opposition.

END THE SHUTDOWN

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. This morning, 186 Democrats signed a petition to end the Republican shutdown and routinely continue to fund the government through November 15 while we work out our differences.

We need only 32 more signatures. I expect every Democrat to sign. Will some on the other side of the aisle cross over to reopen the government, go back to regular order, and negotiate our differences without a shutdown government, without threatening to default on the United States of America?

Earlier, we tried to bring up a bill that would do that under unanimous consent, but the Republicans changed the rules of the House. After more than 200 years, they changed the rules to say “no,” we couldn’t bring that bill up. We cannot have a vote on continuing to run the government.

Now, man up over there. Give us a vote. If you have got the votes, then you can keep the government shut down. If we have the votes, we go back to routinely funding a continuing resolution for the government until November 15. I think that would be a service to the American people.

REMEMBERING ERNIE BLANKENSHIP

(Mr. WENSTRUP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, Ernie Blankenship lived a life of service to his faith, his family, his country, and his community. It was a pleasure to help Ernie and Rita celebrate their 50th anniversary last year, as it was to see him on Sunday mornings at St. Mary Church.

Ernie passed away earlier this week—a loss that will be felt not only by his family but throughout southern Ohio.

Ernie served his country in the Army, played minor league baseball, and earned degrees from the University of Cincinnati and Xavier University. He coached youth sports teams and enjoyed a broadcasting career that spanned over 50 years.

Earlier this year, Ernie retired as the senior vice president of NCB Savings Bank in Hillsboro. He touched all of our lives in countless ways. He will continue to touch our lives and the lives of so many young men and women through the scholarship that bears his name.

Ernie Blankenship’s legacy will continue through his children and grandchildren, who learned firsthand his lessons on a life of humble service, faith, and patriotism.

It has been a true honor to know Ernie and to represent him in Congress.